

recovery center in Washington, DC, when he met Mr. Gonsalves.

Thousands of dollars in donations from businesses and members of the Craven County community poured in to support the efforts of Homes for Our Troops to build a home for this hero and his family in New Bern, North Carolina.

This Saturday, my heart was touched so deeply as I saw the joy of Sergeant Edmundson, his wife Stephanie, and his little girl, Gracie, as they were welcomed into their home.

This story is only one example of many individuals and groups across this Nation that are doing God's will for our men and women in uniform. I feel humbled to have met Sergeant Edmundson and his family, and all of those who have formed such a caring support system for them. These contributions and acts of service are what truly shows the goodness and the greatness of America.

Madam Speaker, with that, I close by asking God to continue to bless our men and women in uniform and their families, and ask God to continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF IRAQ AUMF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to commemorate a sad and very tragic anniversary in our Nation's history. Five years ago today, over my strong objections and the objections of many of my colleagues, Congress voted to authorize the use of force against Iraq.

This campaign of shock and awe was a campaign that shocked us all. It was hard to believe that this administration, based on what little information they had, would move in and bomb and invade Iraq.

I often wonder what would have happened had the House approved the amendment that I offered that would have allowed the United Nations inspectors to finish their jobs. If my amendment had passed, and from what I remember, there were about 72 "yes" votes on that amendment, inspectors would have made it clear what we believed then and what the world knows now, that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. And how sad it was to see a great general, military man, then Secretary of State, Secretary of State Colin Powell, go to the United Nations and cherry-pick information to present to the world to try

to convince the world and to convince this Congress to vote to invade and bomb Iraq.

Five years later, the President's failed policy in Iraq has claimed the lives of more than 3,800 brave service men and women, nearly 30,000 wounded, and countless Iraqi civilians, and yet we heard many years ago that the mission was accomplished.

This has cost us more than \$400 billion, nearly a half trillion dollars, with the President poised to ask for \$200 billion more, and no end in sight. The invasion and occupation of Iraq has undermined our Nation's security and the security of the world.

Along with Congresswomen LYNN WOOLSEY and MAXINE WATERS, many of our colleagues in the Progressive Caucus and in the Out of Iraq Caucus have indicated that we in Congress have the power, and we know we have the power, it is a constitutional mandate and requirement, to end the President's failed policy in Iraq. And today, we worked together, over the last few weeks, to put together the information so that this morning we could release a poll today that shows that the American people support us in doing this.

The President wants to pretend that Congress's only choice is to provide funds that he has requested unconditionally or cut off funding for our troops. This is a false choice, and we cannot buy into that argument. We can use our constitutionally mandated appropriations power to end his failed policy, to protect our troops and contractors, and to bring them home. We have the power to fully fund redeployment, and that is what we must do.

Our poll found that 70 percent of those surveyed rejected giving the President further funding for Iraq without conditions, and people favored requiring funds be spent on redeployment over providing the administration funds without conditions. And this was by a 2-1 margin. So, with the support of the American people, we will continue to build support in Congress for fully funding redeployment.

We wrote to the President of the United States to indicate that that is the only way he will get our vote for any funds for this very tragic occupation and tragic civil war that we find ourselves in now. Now we have maybe 86, 87 Members who have committed to this strategy because they know that this is the only way we can end this.

The truth is, the President's "stay the course" strategy provides an exit strategy really for him at the expense of our troops. It allows him to run out the clock on his failed policy and to slip out the door, to leave the American people holding the bag.

How many of our troops should die so that the President can save face? How large of a sacrifice must we make of our children's and grandchildren's future so that the President can avoid just admitting that he was wrong?

The President is not going to take responsibility for this failed policy, we've

seen that and we know that now, so the Congress must. We must act. And the best way for us to do that is to fully fund the safe, timely, and responsible redeployment of our troops and contractors from Iraq.

So on this somber anniversary, we must remind our colleagues of what happened and how we got to this place; but also we must stand tall and say we will bring our young men and women home, and we will end this occupation soon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, for more than 90 years, Armenians were denied recognition for the genocide of 1915. We promised in 1945 to never forget the Holocaust, to remember when such atrocities are committed. But the world could well forget the first genocide of the 20th century. In fact, Hitler used the world's denial of the Armenian genocide as the justification for his invasion of Poland and the ensuing murder of Europe's Jewry.

In a speech he gave in 1939, Adolf Hitler stated, "I have placed my death-head formation in readiness, with orders to send death mercilessly and without compassion, men, women and children of Polish derivation and language. Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

Unfortunately, Members of Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, are seeking to, once again, bury this to appease Turkey. We remember Turkey well, a formerly strong NATO ally; but in 2003, when the United States Army requested permission to transit this ally's territory, Turkey said no, a decision which cost the lives of American service men and women.

Former U.S. House Majority Leader Dick Gephardt, once an ardent supporter of the Armenian Genocide resolution, is now registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent of the Turkish Government. Like many other former Members of Congress, he is lobbying against a bill that he co-sponsored when he served in this body. As a defender of human rights, our country must formally recognize the genocide that Hitler so easily dismissed.

From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Turks systemically annihilated more than 1.5 million ethnic Armenians. There is no other way to describe this organized campaign of murder other than as genocide.